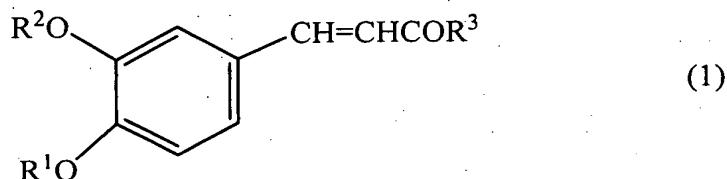


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 – 3 (Canceled)

Claim 4: (Currently Amended) A method for treating hypertension, which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula (1):



wherein, R¹ and R² are the same or different and each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkenyl group, an alkoxyalkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, an aralkyl group or an acyl group, R³ represents a hydroxyl group, or an amide bond residue derived from a water soluble amino acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

with the proviso that where R³ is a hydroxyl group, one of R¹ or R² is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkenyl group, an alkoxyalkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, an aralkyl group or an acyl group, while the other of R¹ or R² is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkenyl group, an alkoxyalkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, an aralkyl group or an acyl group, and wherein said compound of formula (1) is not ferulic acid.

Claims 5-6 (Canceled)

Claim 7: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein the alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, alkoxyalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl and aralkyl groups of R¹ or R² are derived from C₁₋₄₀ alcohols or aryl alcohols.

Claim 8: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein the acyl group of R¹ or R² is derived from C₁₋₄₀ carboxylic acids.

Claims 9 - 10 (Canceled)

Claim 11: (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein R³ is an amide bond residue derived from a water soluble amino acid.

Claim 12: (Canceled)

Claim 13: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein said effective amount ranges from 0.001 to 50 g.

Claim 14: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein said composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 15: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein said administering is orally.

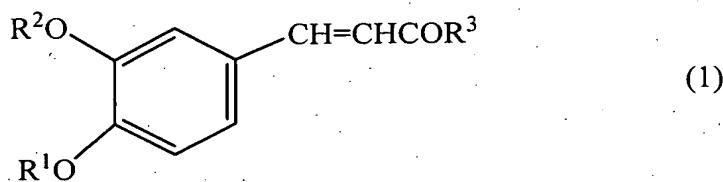
Claim 16: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein said composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of tablets, granules, fine subtilaes, pills, powders, hard capsules, soft capsules, troches, chewables and liquids.

Claim 17: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein said composition is in a liquid form.

Claim 18: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 17, wherein said compound of formula (1) is in an amount of 0.001 to 50 wt.%.

Claim 19: (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, wherein said administering is parenterally.

Claim 20: (New) A method for treating hypertension, which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a composition comprising a compound of formula (1):



wherein, R¹ and R² are the same or different and each independently represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkenyl group, an alkoxyalkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, an aralkyl group or an acyl group, R³ represents a hydroxyl group, or an amide bond residue, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

with the proviso that where R^3 is a hydroxyl group, one of R^1 or R^2 is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, an alkenyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkenyl group, an alkoxyalkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, an aralkyl group or an acyl group, while the other of R^1 or R^2 is selected from the group consisting of an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, a cycloalkyl group, a cycloalkenyl group, an alkoxyalkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, an aralkyl group or an acyl group, and wherein said compound of formula (1) is not ferulic acid.

Claim 21: (New) The method of Claim 20, wherein the alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, alkoxyalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl and aralkyl groups of R^1 or R^2 are derived from C_{1-40} alcohols or aryl alcohols.

Claim 22: (New) The method of Claim 20, wherein the acyl group of R^1 or R^2 is derived from C_{1-40} carboxylic acids.

Claim 23: (New) The method of Claim 20, wherein R^3 is an amide bond residue.

Claim 24: (New) The method of Claim 23, wherein the amide bond residue is derived from water soluble amino acids.

Claim 25: (New) The method of Claim 20, wherein said effective amount ranges from 0.001 to 50 g.

Claim 26: (New) The method of Claim 20, wherein said composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 27: (New) The method of Claim 20, wherein said administering is orally.

Claim 28: (New) The method of Claim 28, wherein said composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of tablets, granules, fine subtilaes, pills, powders, hard capsules, soft capsules, troches, chewables and liquids.

Claim 29: (New) The method of Claim 29, wherein said composition is in a liquid form.

Claim 30: (New) The method of Claim 30, wherein said compound of formula (1) is in an amount of 0.001 to 50 wt.%.

Claim 31: (New) The method of Claim 20, wherein said administering is parenterally.